

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for communicating between a user terminal and a communications network based on an Internet protocol via multiple dynamic wireless communications linkages.

In one embodiment, the invention may be characterized as a method of data transfer for satellite communications systems that includes the steps of establishing multiple dynamic wireless linkages between a communications network based on an Internet protocol and a user terminal via a plurality of geo-stationary satellites and transferring datagrams conforming to the Internet protocol between the user terminal and the communications network over the multiple dynamic wireless linkages.

In another embodiment, the invention may be characterized as a user terminal for a satellite communications system that includes a multiple beam antenna for receiving and transmitting signals between the multiple link terminal and a plurality of geostationary satellites, a plurality of amplifiers coupled to the multiple beam antenna, a plurality of bandpass filters coupled to the plurality of amplifiers, a modem coupled to the plurality of bandpass filters, a router & hub coupled to the modem, a transport layer coupled to the router & hub, and an estimation processor coupled to the router & hub.

The aspects of the present invention